

**Barnwood House**  
**Hospital for Mental and**  
**Nervous Disorders,**  
Near Gloucester.

*Ninety-sixth*

**Annual Report**

For the Year 1955.

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*Printed by H. OSBORNE, Gloucester.*

1956.

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## REPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

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For the year 1955 the average daily number of patients in residence was one hundred and sixty-six, which is ten more than for the previous year and the highest ever recorded during the ninety-six years in the history of Barnwood House. This is a remarkable change when it is recalled that as lately as the year 1951 the corresponding figure was but one hundred and nineteen.

Owing to this increase in the number of patients, the accounts again reveal new peak figures both for expenditure on the maintenance, treatment, and welfare of the patients, and for the income from their fees. The income might have been higher still, had not the Committee, continuing to exercise the discretion which lies in their power, granted reductions for new admissions, and renewal of reduced fees, in forty-six cases which were submitted to them.

During the past few years the demand for bed space has grown so much as to call for some permanent addition to the accommodation in the Ladies Division, and in order to provide this the alterations to No. 2, mentioned in the Committee's last report, were carried out as planned. There a visitors' room was converted into an additional day-room for patients, and a new verandah for extra beds was formed (with its



own bathroom and toilet arrangements) connecting with No. 3 observation room. A most valuable modern adjunct to the Ladies Division has thus been acquired, and full advantage of the extra space has since been taken.

In the Centre a new room for visitors has been built in an unused area space off the front hall, and this has freed for much needed office accommodation the room formerly used by visitors. Within the Hospital minor alterations have been made to provide more privacy for the Matron and the Deputy Matron in their apartments.

The remaining two of the four new semi-detached cottages in Welveland Lane were completed early in the year and are now occupied by a farm worker and a gardener. In Upton Lane, near the Manor House, a detached house was erected for an Assistant Medical Officer and has since been occupied by Dr. A. L. Taylor. For the name of this house the Committee decided upon "Wheatstone", after Sir Charles Wheatstone, the distinguished scientist and founder of the modern telegraph, who was born in the Manor House. The Committee are increasingly mindful of the value of providing housing as a means of attracting to and retaining in their service staff of the various occupations who must be employed in order to carry on the work of the Hospital.

Much time and thought has been spent by the Heating sub-Committee over a long period in continued investigations into the problems connected with the renewal of the heating system,

and at a meeting held in suitably cold weather in February they were able to assess with their consulting engineers the particular standard of heating required. It was not until much deliberation had been given to the merits of all available types of fuel that the Committee abandoned the original suggestion of electricity in favour of oil to replace the coal at present being used. Finally the plans and a specification were drawn up, tenders were obtained from four firms, and the lowest of these, amounting to £32,287, was accepted. An additional cost will be the builder's work of cutting away and making good, building bases, etc. which is to be carried out by the Hospital's own maintenance staff, in close co-operation with the contractors, so that a minimum disturbance to the patients and the routine may be ensured. It is planned to start the work in early May, and first attention will be directed to the Ladies Wing.

At this stage the Committee wish to place on record their appreciation of the valuable services of the Chairman of their sub-Committee, Rear-Admiral A. J. L. Phillips, who, with Lord Banbury of Southam, and Major G. B. Heywood, jointly succeeded in settling some fundamental issues, sparing no effort to make sure that the recommendations eventually made were sound.

The Farm has succeeded in supplying the Hospital with all its needs of milk and eggs and much poultry besides, and for the twelfth successive year in shewing a favourable balance in its account. The value of the produce supplied



to the Hospital by the farm, expressed as a percentage of the whole, was forty-seven, and over the past five years has averaged forty-one. This has a direct relation to taxation, for while the Inland Revenue has always held that farm profits are taxable under Schedule D., H.M. Inspector has recently agreed to exclude from the assessment that part of the profit calculated as attributable to produce charged by the farm for internal supplies. Conscious of the need to keep abreast with modern labour saving and hygienic methods in milk production, the Farm sub-Committee are now contemplating a scheme to alter the interior of the cow house, whereby the cows will stand tail to tail instead of face to face, with other advantages. Also affecting the farm, but at a date not yet known, will be a new road, called the Barnwood By-Pass, which is planned to cross the middle of the land on the North East side of the present main road and to include a large round-a-bout, from which another road will lead off towards the North. This new highway, we are told, will relieve the present road of much of the traffic—for which all who use the Hospital entrance will be duly thankful. Most unfortunately, though, it will take away from agriculture and the farm some of the best land, by reason of its length and width. Moreover, with the inter-sections it will cut the farm into three, thus restricting the movements of cattle. The Farm sub-Committee hope to overcome this unwelcome obstacle by reserving for the dairy herd the land on the same side of the new roads as the farm buildings, and by keeping the other

stock on the fields which will be cut off on the far side when these roads are built. A County Council scheme for improving the Horsbere watercourse, which runs through the farm pastures for three-quarters of a mile of its length was submitted to and approved by the Committee. This work, the cost of only part of which will be borne by the Trustees, has recently been started and should remedy the flooding which has hitherto occurred after heavy rainfall. To the sub-Committee of Captain Gibbs, Lord Banbury and Major Heywood, who continue to advise on all matters of farm policy, the cordial thanks of the Committee are due and are here recorded.

*Bownham Park.*—Since the Committee, following the disposal of Woodchester Park, could anticipate no further use for the vacant Bownham Park, this property, with the exception of Gravel Hill House, was sold. Gravel Hill House, a small dwelling-house, was retained as an investment and leased to a tenant.

*Hume Towers, Bournemouth.*—A reception ceremony to mark the opening was held at Hume Towers on the 14th January, when the Committee was represented by the Chairman and the Medical Superintendent, to which the Bournemouth doctors were invited. Unfortunately the exceptionally severe weather and road conditions on that day prevented a fully representative attendance, but despite these unforeseen restrictions many useful contacts were made. Dr. T. T. Bartlett, who has had previous similar experience with private patients, was appointed



as Medical Officer there, and the first patient was received on the 25th February. It was not until later in the year, however, after the work of alterations and improvements had been finished, that this branch establishment became fully furnished and equipped. Although not yet full, a total of one hundred and seventeen patients had been admitted by the 31st December.

No individual changes took place in the constitution of either the General Committee or of the House Committee during the year, but the Committee have since minuted their regret at the recent death of Vice-Admiral A. F. B. Carpenter, V.C., R.N., a Governor since 1936 and a member of the General Committee since 1937. The Board of Governors was strengthened by the election of the Honourable Mrs. B. L. Bathurst, Mrs. J. H. Dent-Brocklehurst, Lord Howard of Penrith and Major K. G. W. Shennan.

The need for further amendment of the General Rules and Regulations has become increasingly apparent during recent years, and this task and the formalities to be observed will receive attention in the very near future.

Sister W. E. Stroud and G. Dutton (a gardener) with thirty-two and twenty-two years service respectively, left on pension; and C. J. Porter, a former chauffeur, died within a year of retirement caused by ill health.

The Committee once again express their warm appreciation of the many and varied services rendered both to them and to the patients by their Physician Superintendent, Dr. G. W. T.

H. Fleming, upon whom the opening of the Bournemouth branch has thrown new responsibilities; as also of the help rendered to him by his Assistant Medical Officers at Barnwood and Bournemouth. The Committee were gratified by the invitation given to Dr. Ashby to accept a Research Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, California, under the auspices of the Ford Foundation, and gladly offered him leave of absence from their Research Department in order to enable him to take advantage of it. To their Matron, Miss MacMillan, they also desire to renew their gratitude for her services and help in so many directions, and not least for the skill and success with which she directed the furnishing and equipment of the rooms at Hume Towers, Bournemouth, a work to which Miss Clargo also gave her valuable assistance. To the Nursing Staff at both Gloucester and Bournemouth the Committee again record their appreciation of their service, upon which the welfare of their patients must so largely depend. To the Heads and Staff of all their other Departments, so vital to the well-being of a large Hospital, the Committee again express their appreciation of their services, and in connection with the opening of Hume Towers they desire to mention the additional work discharged both by their Clerk of Works and their Head Gardener, in completing all the arrangements which make that Branch so efficient and attractive.

W. I. CROOME,  
*Chairman.*

# REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL

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BARNWOOD HOUSE,  
GLOUCESTER.

17th March, 1955.

Since the last visit a number of additions, alterations and improvements have been carried out. Additional wash basins have been installed in bedrooms and improvements have been made in hot and cold water supplies. A house for the Assistant Medical Officer is being built in the grounds. A new observation dormitory and extension of the verandah is being constructed in No. 2 Ladies Division. All wards, rooms and departments are well furnished, clean, suitably heated and comfortable.

In residence today there are 164 patients, 53 gentlemen and 111 ladies. Of these, 34 men and 51 ladies are certified. During 1954, there were 194 direct admissions. Of these, 164 were voluntary, 12 temporary and 18 certified, and 159 patients were discharged.

The nursing staff consists of 15 men and 25 women whole-time, with 1 man and 16 part-time female nurses.

Dr. Fleming is assisted by Dr. Gibson and Dr. Taylor, who has recently joined the medical staff.



All forms of psychiatric treatment are available. Consultant opinion in general surgical and medical cases is available when required.

Arrangements for amusements and recreation are well organised.

All patients in residence were seen and many were spoken to. A number expressed appreciation of the care and attentions they were receiving. One special interview was given.

During the visit, I was accompanied by Dr. Gibson who gave me every assistance.

J. FRASER M. CAMPBELL,  
*Commissioner of the Board of Control.*

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BARNWOOD HOUSE,  
GLOUCESTER.

6th October, 1955.

To-day I have paid the second statutory visit of the year to this Registered Hospital. The names of 117 ladies and 60 gentlemen are upon the books: fifty-eight of the former and 33 of the latter are under certificates.

The number of male and female nursing staff remain more or less as at the date of the visit on behalf of my Board in September of last year.

Barnwood House has three annexes in the near vicinity; two are for ladies and one for gentlemen. Hume Towers at Bournemouth has recently been acquired by the Trustees of Barnwood House: it is a nursing home of some

luxury to which patients can be sent on leave or trial as it is outside the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.

Throughout my visit I found the usual high standards prevailing at Barnwood House and its annexes. All the various rooms are well furnished, bright and comfortable.

It is approximately seven months since the last visit on behalf of my Board: during this period the general health of the patients has been very satisfactory. There have been 20 (12 male, 8 female) deaths; all were due to natural causes except in the case of one. The cause is still undetermined as the death is sub judice to a Coroner's Inquest.

I found the patients well cared for and given every kindness. Many, that is those who were capable of expressing an opinion, said how appreciative they were of what is being done for them.

Improvements and additions completed during the period under review consist in the main of additional H. & C. basins in certain bedrooms, and the extension to the verandah in No 2 Ladies Division. Work in progress includes the enclosing in of two verandahs in Division 4. The question of renewing the central heating is still under active consideration, but with the aid of coal fires the several day rooms and dormitories are to-day suitably heated.

All forms of modern treatment are available. Dr. Fleming has Dr. Gibson and Dr. Taylor to assist him.

In conclusion I would like to record that I consider the patients at this registered hospital are in receipt of every individual care and kindness.

Sgd. JOHN C. RAWLINSON,  
*Commissioner of the Board of Control.*

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## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

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I have the honour to present my report for 1955.

There were in the Hospital on January 1st 1955, 88 certified patients, 2 temporary patients and 78 voluntary patients.

Twenty-eight certified patients, 8 temporary patients and 174 voluntary patients were admitted during the year, a total of 210 compared with 208 in 1954, including transfers but excluding regradings.

Two hundred and three patients were discharged, transferred or died. Three patients were regraded. These changes left the numbers on the books on the 31st December 1955 as follows :—



		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Certified Patients	...	32	56	88
Temporary Patients	...	—	2	2
Voluntary Patients	...	20	65	85

Three-hundred and seventy-eight patients of the three classes were under treatment during the year as compared with 360 in 1954 and 298 in 1953.

The daily average number of patients on the books during the year was 170 compared with 157 in 1954.

Of the direct admissions during the year, the percentage of voluntary admissions was 85 compared with 85 in 1954, while that of certified patients was 11, compared with 9 in 1954. The number of patients admitted during 1955 is a record since the hospital was opened.

#### DISCHARGES

One hundred and sixty-five patients left the Hospital during the year. Of these 50 males and 46 females were discharged recovered, that is 60 per cent males and 38 per cent females and 47 per cent of the total direct admissions.

Forty-five patients were discharged relieved and 19 were discharged not improved, either to the care of friends or to other hospitals.

#### DEATHS

There were 38 deaths during the year, 19 male and 19 female, the average age at death being 76. Of the 38 deaths 21 had been in the hospital less than one year.

The general health both of patients and of staff has been very good during the year.

## RESEARCH

In July of 1955 Dr. Ashby went to Stanford, California, on twelve months leave of absence. He had been awarded a Research Fellowship by the Ford Foundation tenable at the Center for the Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences. This is a very great honour; amongst the forty or so awarded fellowships there were only three from outside America. We expect that his contacts in California and elsewhere in the States will prove most helpful to him in the organisation and development of the research work so essential as a foundation on which to build the treatment of mental disorders.

During his absence his own work is, of course, in abeyance, but the psychological work under the expert guidance of Mrs. Bassett continues to develop, and psychological studies are carried out systematically on all new admissions who are able to co-operate in the work. This, of course, calls for the greatest patience and skill and in this Mrs. Bassett is ably assisted by Miss Valerie Dunn, who has recently joined the research staff.

Mr. M. B. Sporn came to us from Harvard University for one year and returned to America in August. His work has been concentrated on the biochemical approach to mental disorder in relation to problems of immunochemistry.

## GENERAL MATTERS

The amount spent on repairs during the year was £10,382 compared with £10,964 in 1954, and £10,547 in 1953. The amount spent on furniture was £3,092 compared with £3,798 in 1954 and £1,646 in 1953.

During 1955 a considerable amount of repair work was carried out, but there is still a vast amount of work from the war and post-war years to be overtaken.

## HUME TOWERS

The alteration and re-decoration of this nursing home in Bournemouth were completed early in the year. A sherry party was held on the 14th January to mark its opening and to the party all the doctors in Bournemouth and their wives were invited. Unfortunately the heavy snow-storm played havoc with communications and many were kept away. However, those who did turn up were very impressed with the home when they were shown round and several expressed the opinion that it was just what they had been wanting for years.

The first patient was admitted on the 25th February, and in the first twelve months from the day of opening 133 patients have been admitted. This is an amazing number for a first year, and it is hoped to have it nearly full at the end of the second year. A handbook is under preparation and will be given a wide circulation.

There have been no events of importance to report apart from the shattering of a tall Wellingtonia near the house during a violent thunder-storm.



In October I delivered an address on "Experimental Psychoses" to the South-Western Branch of the British Psychological Society at a meeting in Bristol. This was an interesting experience as the audience was almost entirely non-medical.

It is a pleasure to express my appreciation of the assistance I have received during the year from the Medical Officers, the Matron, the Clerk of Works and all members of the staff.

It is increasingly difficult to find adequate words to express to the Chairman and the Committee my appreciation of their guidance and support.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING,  
*Medical Superintendent.*

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## RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Report by MRS. M. BASSETT from the  
Psychological Laboratory

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During the past year I have continued to follow up the results of earlier investigations. My chief interest has been to continue the study of the psycho-galvanic response not only in relation to the form of treatment being given, but especially in relation to the recovery factor. My earlier work had shown that some difference existed in adaptive responses between those who

did and those who did not recover and that this difference could be shown to exist early in the illness. If, as work progresses, this proves to be rigorously so it should throw light on some of the factors which underlie recovery. The work continues according to the experimental plan.

During the Spring and early Summer before leaving for the States Mr. Sporn continued his work on the study of protein metabolism in schizophrenia. He also was interested in some of the biochemical effects of a new drug—Frenquel—which it was reported had a remedial effect in some forms of mental illness. With Dr. Fleming's approval, I was able to spend several weeks here and at the Burden Neurological Institute working with Mr. Sporn. Though the work was not directly in my field I would like to express my gratitude for this opportunity of being able to gain some practical insight into the complexities of the biochemical aspects of mental illness, an opportunity very seldom available to most psychologists.

In the clinical field the routine psychological testing of new admissions was undertaken where this was possible, and since September the preliminary testing of patients has been done by Miss V. Dunn, who joined the Department as a temporary psychological tester prior to entering University. The carrying out of this routine work by Miss Dunn has been of the greatest assistance to me.

Finally for purposes of psychotherapy I have seen twenty-eight patients, each one being seen bi-weekly for an average period of four weeks.





TABLE A2.—GENERAL TABLE, SHOWING THE MOVEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL POPULATION DURING EACH YEAR SINCE 1ST JANUARY, 1944, TOGETHER WITH THE RECOVERY AND DEATH RATES.  
(UNDER THE MENTAL TREATMENT ACT, 1930, VOLUNTARY AND TEMPORARY PATIENTS ARE NOW INCLUDED).

YEAR.	ADMISSIONS.									Total number under Treatment.			DISCHARGED OR TRANSFERRED.									DIED.			Remaining on Registers December 31st			Average Daily Number on Registers.			Percentage of Total Recoveries on the Total Number of Admissions.			Percentage of Total Recoveries on the Direct Admissions.			Percentage of Recoveries yielded by Direct Admissions on the Direct Admissions.			Percentage of Deaths on Average Daily Number on Registers.		
	Direct.			Indirect.			Total.						Recovered.			Relieved.			Not Improved.																							
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.						
1944	26	48	74	5	1	6	31	49	80	99	147	246	14	24	38	9	4	13	5	10	15	16	15	31	55	91	146	61	95	156	45.1	49.	47.5	53.8	50.	51.3	53.8	47.9	50.	26.2	15.8	19.8
1945	35	60	95	—	2	2	35	62	97	90	153	243	7	31	38	3	17	20	9	8	17	8	8	16	63	88	151	61	92	153	20.	50.	39.2	20.	51.7	40.	17.1	50.	37.9	13.1	9.	10.5
1946	48	53	101	3	4	7	51	57	108	114	145	259	24	28	52	6	7	13	16	9	25	10	12	22	58	89	147	61	89	150	47.1	49.1	48.1	50.	52.8	51.5	45.8	41.5	43.6	16.4	13.5	14.7
1947	60	65	125	9	4	13	69	69	138	127	158	285	13	32	45	16	22	38	21	7	28	12	9	21	60	87	147	57	86	143	18.8	46.4	32.6	21.7	49.2	36.	18.3	49.2	34.4	21.	10.5	14.7
1948	46	74	120	2	7	9	48	81	129	108	168	276	25	30	55	10	27	37	11	17	28	9	13	22	53	75	128	57	79	136	52.1	37.	42.6	54.3	40.5	45.8	52.2	40.5	45.	15.8	16.5	16.2
1949	42	71	113	—	5	5	42	76	118	95	151	246	25	28	53	5	13	18	9	13	22	7	13	20	49	80	129	53	83	136	59.5	36.8	44.9	59.5	39.4	46.9	59.5	39.4	46.9	13.2	15.7	14.7
1950	46	67	113	3	5	8	49	72	121	98	152	250	22	35	57	17	17	34	1	7	8	16	14	30	42	76	118	47	79	126	44.9	48.6	47.1	47.8	52.2	50.4	47.8	52.2	50.4	34.0	17.7	23.8
1951	41	84	125	6	7	13	47	91	138	89	166	255	17	36	53	7	19	26	9	6	15	5	10	15	50	92	142	42	79	121	36.2	39.6	38.4	41.5	42.9	42.4	41.5	42.9	42.4	11.9	12.7	12.4
1952	53	98	151	4	9	13	57	107	164	107	197	304	18	43	61	16	29	45	8	15	23	7	6	13	56	102	158	54	93	147	31.2	40.2	37.2	34.0	43.9	40.4	34.0	43.9	40.4	13.0	6.5	8.8
1953	49	87	136	5	9	14	54	96	150	107	191	298	18	36	54	16	23	39	8	19	27	10	15	25	55	98	153	54	101	155	29.5	32.4	31.4	36.7	41.4	39.7	36.7	41.4	39.7	18.5	14.9	16.1
1954	73	121	194	4	14	18	77	135	212	132	233	365	40	41	81	16	35	51	7	21	28	14	18	32	54	114	168	56	100	156	51.9	30.4	38.2	54.8	33.9	41.8	54.8	33.	41.2	25.	18.	20.5
1955	84	121	205	5.	3	8	89	124	213	141	237	378	50	46	96	15	30	45	5	19	24	19	19	38	52	123	175	54	112	166	56.2	37.1	45.1	59.6	38.0	47.0	59.6	38.0	47.0	35.2	17.0	23.0

